33 SIMON SENZON

# CHIROPRACTIC WAVES

## A HISTORY OF IDEAS: AN OUTLINE

D.D. Palmer's contribution to philosophy is part of a long lineage of Western thought. His students continue that contribution by developing upon his paradigm, confronting his ideas and each other, and moving the chiropractic paradigm forward.

It is important for chiropractors and students of chiropractic to make connections between the past and the present. One way to do that is to examine the social network of philosophical leaders and the waves of ideas that comprise chiropractic's history of ideas.

The following is an outline of some important references from chiropractic's history of ideas.

## D.D. Palmer's Philosophical Lineage

It is possible to reconstruct the philosophical lineage from D.D. Palmer with an emphasis on individuals who published books or articles and became leaders in the field through teaching or leading schools.

Such a philosophical lineage is different from a lineage of subluxation theorists. This philosophical lineage mainly includes individuals who developed upon D.D. Palmer's paradigm or explored it in various ways. A lineage of subluxation theorists would be far more inclusive of every school since subluxation is the cornerstone of the profession and has been since its inception. It may also include technique developers.

The first three generations of chiropractors were from 1913 to 2014. One intellectual generation is approximately 33 years. At the time of D.D. Palmer's death in 1913, the first generation of chiropractors began. The second generation started in 1947 and the third in 1981. The year 2015, begins the 4th generation of chiropractors.

## The Waves of Chiropractic Philosophers

One useful way to understand the complexity of chiropractic theory and philosophy is to consider the history of ideas in chiropractic as waves. There are many different ways such a history could be divided. Viewing the history based on publications, reference patterns, and historical events suggest at least 8 waves of ideas.

### *The First Wave (1897-1907)*

The First Wave of chiropractic philosophers started with D.D. Palmer's earliest theories and the teaching of his first students in the 1890s. It ends with the trial of Shegetaro Morikubo in 1907. To best understand this wave, a thorough understanding of D.D. Palmer's roots and influences are useful. His earliest writings and the writings of his first students are also important. The primary figures from this wave include D.D. Palmer, B.J. Palmer, Morikubo, Solon Langworthy, O.G. Smith, A.P. Davis, and Tom Morris.

This period is marked by the birth of chiropractic practice and theory. It also included leadership struggles of the early profession. Palmer's students started to define chiropractic according to their own practices and worldviews. Two of the most significant events during this period were the conflict between father and son and the Morikubo trial. [Fig. 1]

The Morikubo trial established the profession as separate and distinct from medicine because of its unique science, art, and philosophy. D.D. Palmer's philosophy of Innate Intelligence and his theory of subluxation were used in the trial as evidence. Subluxation and Innate Intelligence are found in D.D. Palmer's writings as early as 1902 and were probably taught prior to his writing them down.

### *The Second Wave (1908-1915)*

The Second Wave of chiropractic philosophers is marked by a flourishing of new ideas from both Palmers. This included the publication of D.D. Palmer's two books and also volumes 2-6 of B.J. Palmer's chiropractic Green Books. This wave was marked by conflicts with their school rivals such as Willard Carver, A.P. Davis, Alva Gregory, Joy Loban, Arthur Forster, and John Howard. [Fig. 2]. This wave also

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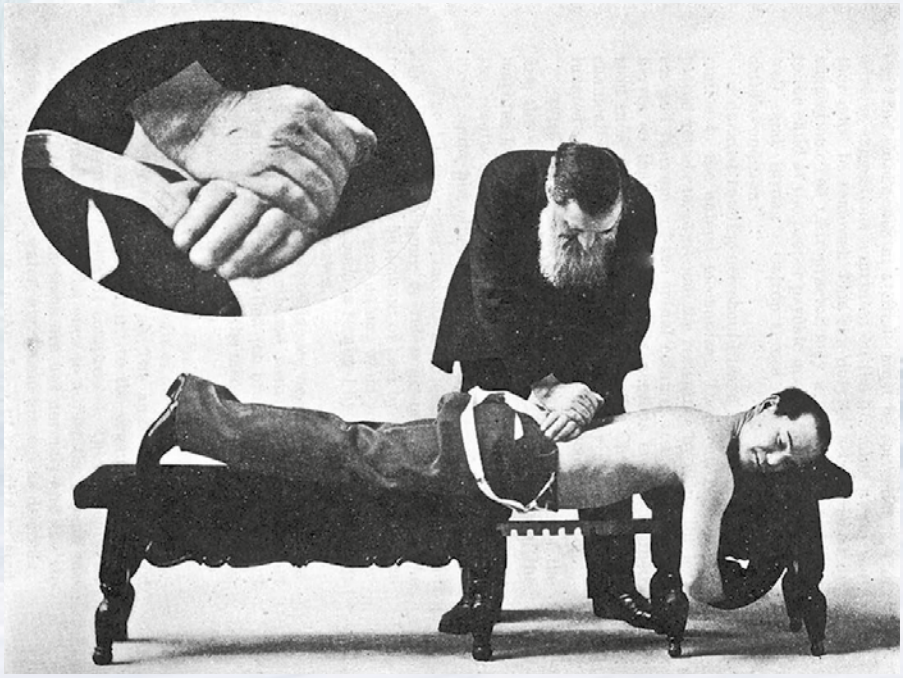

Figure 1. D.D. Palmer adjusting Shegataro Morikubo.

Figure 2. John Howard, DC

included Firth's pioneering text *Chiropractic Symptomatology* and an influential article on philosophy by Morikubo.

With the death of D.D. Palmer in 1913, the internecine warfare commenced. Philosophical perspective would soon be used to distinguish school identity.

### *The Third Wave (1916-1927)*

The Third Wave of chiropractic philosophers begins in 1916 with the publication of the second edition of B.J. Palmer's *Volume 5*. The wave ends in 1927, with the publication of Stephenson's *Chiropractic Textbook* and Drain's *Chiropractic Thoughts*. Interestingly, the second edition of B.J. Palmer's *Vol 5* is still printed with what appears to be a misprint on the spine, which reads, "The Science of Chiropractic." The spine on the first edition from 1909 reads, "The Philosophy of Chiropractic." Even though the spine on the second edition is incorrect, the title page of the second edition is correct. Because of this apparent error, it is difficult to assess the impact of the book across the generations beyond its influence on Stephenson's text, and B.J.'s other volumes.

The Third Wave also includes the publication of new Green Books by Mabel Palmer, Steve Burich, John Craven, and Harry Vedder, and new editions by Firth, and B.J. Palmer. The Green Books were the academic core of the Palmer School and integrated the Innate philosophy throughout the topics of symptomatology, anatomy, chemistry, orthopedy, and physiology. [Fig. 3]

Other important books from the chiropractic paradigm were published during this wave

Figure 3. PSC Faculty c. 1920.

such as B.J. Palmer's publication of an edited version of D.D. Palmer's two books, Stephenson's summation of the Palmer philosophy to date, and Drain's detailed and practical explanation of Palmer's philosophy in plain language.

Also during this wave, several books were published from the middle chiropractic paradigm and the medical chiropractic paradigm. These two paradigms pioneered the blending of chiropractic with other modalities and also with the medical paradigm even though all schools included adjustment of subluxation as central. Primary authors were Forster, who was partners with Schultz at National School of Chiropractic, and Riley, who was a student of Alva Gregory.

The chiropractic philosophers from this era shaped future waves.

## The Fourth Wave (1928-1948)

The Fourth Wave of chiropractic philosophers begins with the death of Tom Morris in 1928 and ends with the death of Mabel Palmer in 1948. This wave was influenced by research as well as social and educational pressures, which shaped the development of the theories. These forces led to the standardization of education and the beginnings of competing accreditation programs.

Primary individuals from this wave were B.J. Palmer, Drain, C.O. Watkins, Budden, Nugent, Schultz, [Fig. 4] and Weiant. Small research centers emerged throughout the profession. The largest one was B.J. Palmer's

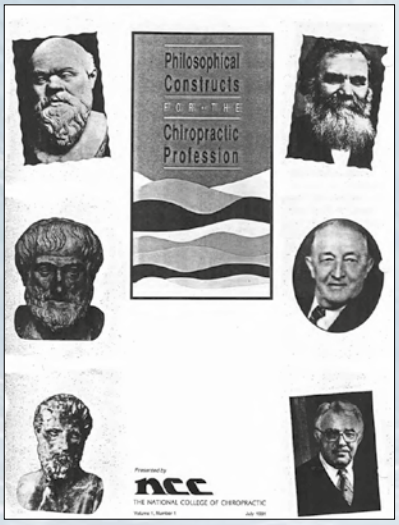

Figure 4. The first cover of the journal Philosophical Constructs (precursor to JCH), depicting Schultz in a philosophical lineage between D.D. Palmer and J.J. Janse and comparing the three to Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Research Clinic, which opened in 1935. Palmer's fourteen years of research during this period shaped his final philosophical theories. For example, he started to use the term "from above downward and inside outward," to describe the organism's innate ability to neurologically organize its own life processes. This simplified capture of his father's chiropractic paradigm with the acronym, ADIO (above down inside out), would influence future waves. All of the researchers and theorists from this wave impacted the profession.

## The Fifth Wave (1949-1961)

The Fifth Wave of chiropractic begins with B.J. Palmer's publication of *The Bigness of the Fellow Within* in 1949 and ends with his death in 1961. Teaching chiropractic principles guided this philosophical wave. Some of the major figures were Galen Price, B.J. Palmer, Lyle Sherman, Jim Drain, Joe Janse, Carl Cleveland Jr., T.F. Ratledge, Weiant, Verner, and R.J. Watkins.

Drain and Ratledge were two important authors from this wave. Drain published the second edition of *Chiropractic Thoughts* in 1946, *Man Tomorrow* in 1949, and wrote an unpublished manuscript titled *We Walk Again*, in 1956. [Fig. 5] Ratledge self-published a set of notes in 1949. Also, he pioneered his own brand of chiropractic philosophy, science, and art without any reference to Palmer books. [Fig. 6]

B.J. Palmer authored 16 books in this fourteen year period and most were on the philosophy of chiropractic. Few chiropractors in the ensuing fifty-five years have yet to read all of them. Several distinct developments of his thinking on philosophy may be traced through those texts.

## The Sixth Wave (1962-1975)

The Sixth Wave of chiropractic philosophers begins in 1962 and ends with the conference on spinal and manipulative therapy at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1975. Villanueva-Russell suggested that 1962, the year after B.J. Palmer's death, marks the second period of chiropractic. The NIH conference was a turning point for the profession. Key figures from this period include Harper, Janse, Gold, Gelardi, Himes, Sherman, R.J. Watkins, and Weiant.

Some major advances in philosophy during this wave include Harper's book, *Anything Can Cause Anything* (ACCA) and the new movement led by Gelardi and Gold. Harper developed ACCA from his decades of studying D.D. Palmer's writings. The book was an attempt to sum up D.D. Palmer's work in the form of several tenets supported by modern neurophysiology. [Fig. 7] ACCA impacted the profession in several ways including Harper's testimony at the famous England trial and the American Chiropractic Association's (ACA) philosophy statement in 1973. Gold's objective straight chiropractic movement distinguished the vertebral subluxation as a clinical entity by emphasizing the

Fig. 5 J.R. Drain visiting D.D. Palmer's former neighbors in What Cheer Iowa.

Fig. 6. T.F. Ratledge with B.J. Palmer at a California meeting in 1931

definition of innate intelligence in terms of the body's ability to organize and adapt.

The philosophy of diagnosis became a significant area of dispute during this wave. This conflict culminated in the Council on Chiropractic Education's (CCE) recognition by the U.S. Department of Education in 1974. The CCE emerged from the ACA. Their approach to chiropractic began its dominance of chiropractic education during this wave.

## *The Seventh Wave (1976-1996)*

The Seventh Wave of chiropractic philosophers included modern peer-reviewed literature on philosophy in chiropractic and several important theorists such as Keating, Coulter, Phillips, Winterstein, Donahue, Gelardi, Smallie, Epstein, Barge, Boone, Williams, Strang, and Strauss.

One influential set of ideas during this period was pioneered by Coulter, which led to terminology included in the World Health Organization, the World Federation of Chiropractic, and the first academic imprint on the philosophy of chiropractic. The period ends with the 1996 publication of Boone and Dobson's vertebral subluxation model, which integrates D.D. Palmer's paradigm and B.J. Palmer's innovations with the advances of Gelardi, Epstein, the latest subluxation theories, as well as contemporary science and research models.

Fig. 7. Harper's crest depicting four triads representing chiropractic

## *The Eighth Wave (1997-2017)*

The Eighth Wave of chiropractic philosophers begins in 1997 with the paradigm changing publication of all 39 volumes of chiropractic Green Books in a searchable pdf format by Sinnott. In 1999, the first article in the peer-literature to apply this research tool to the philosophy of chiropractic was published. The searchable pdf format has become a primary method for historians to track the history of ideas in chiropractic.

Key figures of this wave include several teachers and school leaders, such as Strauss, Decken, Epstein, Russell, Richards, Kent, McAulay, Koch, Clum, Phillips, Keating, Winterstein, Ebrall, and Boone. Contributions from this wave are many. For example, the 2009 publication of Epstein's Reorganizational Healing (ROH) paradigm described the Energetic Intelligences. These are an evolution from the traditional chiropractic intelligences such as Innate Intelligence, Educated Intelligence, and Universal Intelligence. This wave also includes my own series on constructing a philosophy of chiropractic. Additionally, Sinnott published his first text in 2009, which updates the original philosophy of Stephenson for modern practice and his *Textbook Of Human Adaptability* in 2016.

It is best to end this wave at 2017, as it is impossible to predict how the publications from 2018 and onward will impact the profession and the world. Only time will tell whether the next wave of chiropractic philosophers will build upon the work of previous waves. If the previous waves are a predictor, such developments are inevitable.

Please find the references at **www.institutechiro.com/refs**

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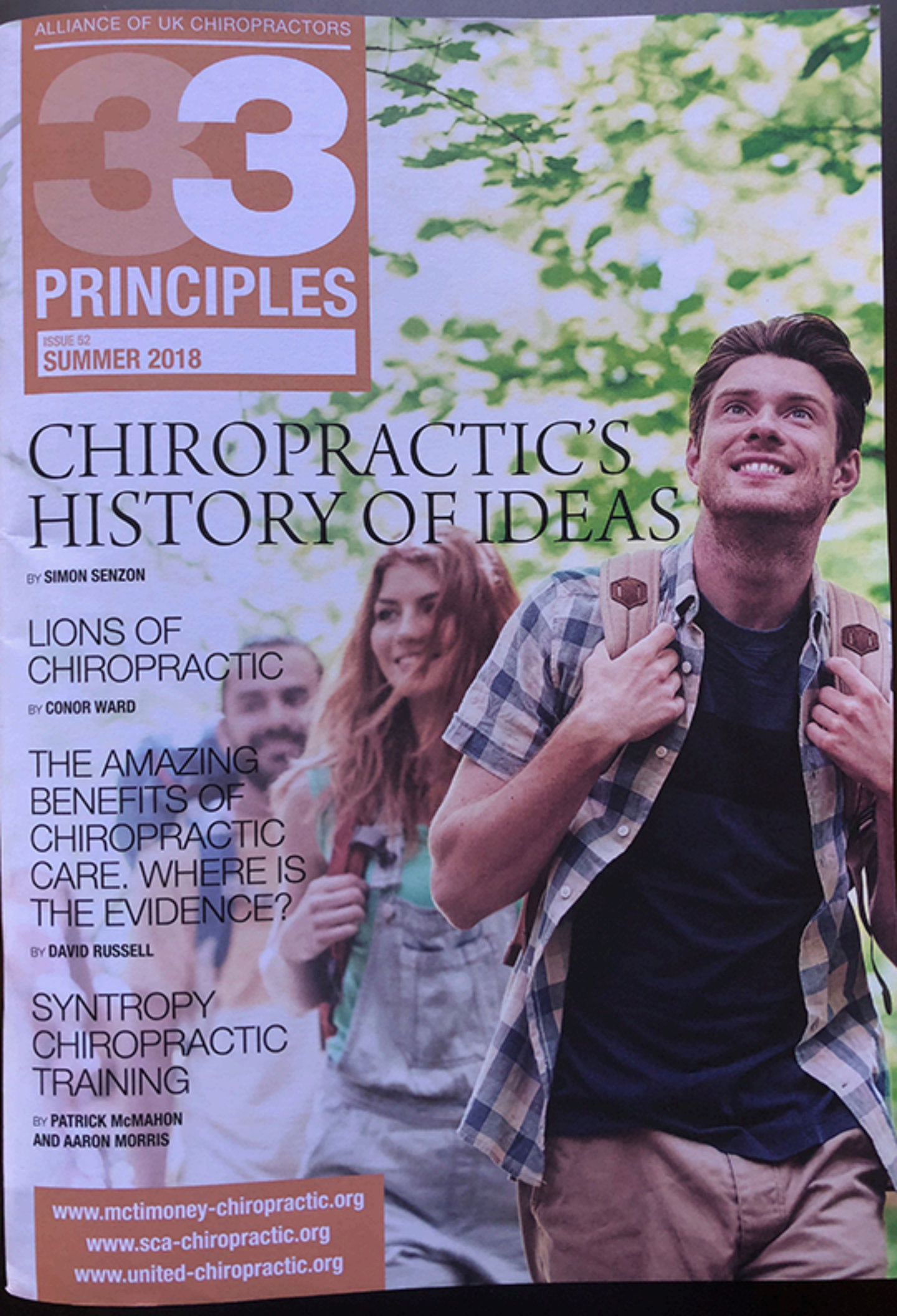

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